

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 19031 270604Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 OMB-01 /060 W
-----083331 270920Z /15

R 270508Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5562
INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
CINCPAC HONOLULU

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FOR CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, TH, LA
SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS COMMUNIST INVASION PLAN FOR LOEI
PROVINCE

1. BANGKOK PRESS AUGUST 26 CARRIED FRONT PAGE STORIES
ON ALLEGED COMMUNIST PLAN TO CUT OFF LOEI PROVINCE FOR
USE AS A SPRINGBOARD TO ANNEX OTHER PARTS OF THAILAND.
ACCORDING TO THE PRESS REPORTS, THE SOURCE OF THE STORY WAS
THE MILITARY COMMANDER OF THE COMBINED CIVILIAN-POLICE-
MILITARY TASK FORCE OPERATING IN THE TRI-PROVINCEAREA
(PHITSANULOK, PHETCHABUN, LOEI).

2. THE PRESS ALSO REPORTED A SUPREME COMMAND STATEMENT
CITING TPLA ACTIVITY INCLUDING ESTABLISHING A BATTALION
HQ IN PAK LAI, XAIBURI PROVINCE, LAOS IN THE SALIENT
BORDERING UTTARADIT, PHITSANULOK AND LOEI. THE
SUPREME COMMAND STATEMENT ALLEGED THAT VIETNAMESE HAD
BEEN SENT TO SCHOOLS IN XAIBURI FOR LAO LANGUAGE
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INSTRUCTION, PRESUMABLY FOR EVENTUAL INFILTRATION
INTO NORTHEAST THAILAND.

3. COMMENT: WHILE THE STORIES GRABBED BANNER HEADLINES,
THE CONTENT IS NOT NEW. XAIBURI PROVINCE HAS LONG BEEN
A HAVEN FOR CPT CADRE AND SUPPORT ACTIVITY. LOEI,
PARTICULARLY THE WESTERN DISTRICTS, HAS PROVED A

VULNERABLE TARGET FOR CPT CROSS BORDER ACTIVITY. THE AREA IS REMOTE AND SPARSELY POPULATED AND THE HUANG RIVER, WHICH FORMS THE BOUNDARY AT THAT POINT, IS QUITE NARROW. NA HAEW DISTRICT HAS BEEN THE SITE OF A NUMBER OF SKIRMISHES, MANY OF WHICH WERE ATTRIBUTED TO LPDR ATTACKS FROM THE LAO SIDE OF THE RIVER. LOEI REMAINS A VERY SENSITIVE AREA WHERE GOVERNMENT CONTROL IS NEBULOUS IN MANY PARTS AND WHERE GOVERNMENTS OFFICIALS PROCEED WITH CONSIDERABLE CAUTION. AS INDICATED ABOVE, THIS IS NOT A NEW DEVELOPMENT AND THE PRESS STORIES SHOULD BE VIEWED IN THIS PERSPECTIVE.

O'DONOHUE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: PINS, TH, LA
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